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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**The Concho Valley Rape Crisis Center vehemently disagrees with the Thomas Boden plea agreement for an aggravated sexual assault of a 2 year old girl**

**San Angelo, Texas** – In April of this year, a grand jury indicted Thomas Boden on one count of second degree indecency with a child by contact and a first degree aggravated sexual assault of a child. The trial was set for October of this year. Last Tuesday, August 25th, Boden was unexpectedly released with a plea deal resulting in 10 years deferred adjudication probation. “We are tired of seeing sex offenders go unpunished. We would rather see them tried in a courtroom and let a jury decide.” says Karla Payne, Executive Director of the Concho Valley Rape Crisis Center (CVRCC). “There seems to have been enough physical evidence in this case for them to prosecute even without the child’s testimony”

Child sexual assault cases rely on the collaboration of a variety of entities including the child advocacy center, rape crisis center, district attorney’s office, and law enforcement. “Disagreements are a part of the process.” says Rose Luna, Director of Communications at the Texas Association Against Sexual Assault, “And in this case we strongly disagree with the plea deal and the lack of communication with the family.” Child sexual assault cases strike the heart of society. The outcome of this case has certainly made its way through San Angelo as a protest supporting the young victim is scheduled for 10 am today.

Sexual assault is a highly misunderstood crime in our society. According to a study released this month by the Institute of Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (IDVSA) at the School of Social Work at UT Austin, 6.3 million Texans have been sexually assaulted at some point in their lifetime with only 9% reporting their assault to law enforcement.<sup>1</sup>

The Concho Valley Rape Crisis Center provides a safe haven for victims of sexual violence and is available to provide trainings to partner agencies and the community. The CVRCC also works toward social change in and around San Angelo, TX.

**Concho Valley Rape Crisis Center Press Conference**

**Date:** Monday, August 31, 2015

**Time:** 9:30 am (Justice for Annabelle Protest organized by victim’s family begins at 10 am)

**Location:** Tom Green County Courthouse, 112 West Beauregard Ave., San Angelo, TX 76903

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**Concho Valley Rape Crisis Center (CVRCC)** is a nonprofit organization whose mission is to create social change within the Concho Valley, by providing prevention, education, advocacy, and a safe place to foster healing for survivors of sexual violence and gender discrimination. Additional information about the CVRCC can be found at [www.cv-rcc.org](http://www.cv-rcc.org)

**The Texas Association Against Sexual Assault (TAASA)** is the statewide organization committed to ending sexual violence in Texas. A non-profit educational and advocacy organization based in Austin, TAASA member agencies comprise a statewide network of more than 80 crisis centers that serve rural as well as metropolitan areas. Founded in 1982, the agency has a strong record of success in community education, legal services, youth outreach, law enforcement training, legislative advocacy, and curricula and materials development. Additional information about TAASA can be found at [www.taasa.org](http://www.taasa.org)

<sup>1</sup> Busch-Armendariz, N.B., Olaya, D., Kerwick, M., Wachter, K. & Sulley C. (2015). Health and wellbeing: Texas statewide sexual assault prevalence. The University of Texas at Austin, Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault: Austin, Texas